

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

FELD ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/691,889

Filed: October 20, 2000

For: NUCLEIC ACID CONSTRUCTS
AND CELLS ...

Examiner: Anne-Marie Baker

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231



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Group Art Unit: 1632

Attorney
Docket: 00/20989

RESPONSE

Sir:

This is in response to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Action mailed October 4, 2002, which response is being made on or before March 4, 2002, and for which a two-months extension fee is due and is being submitted herewith. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend claims 23 and 37, without prejudice, as follows:

23. (Amended) A method of modifying the electrophysiological function of an excitable tissue region of an individual, the method comprising implanting cells into the excitable tissue region, wherein each implanted cell forms:

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(a) gap junctions with at least one cell of the excitable tissue region;
and
(b) a functional ion channel or transporter;

thereby modifying the electrophysiological function of the excitable tissue region.